

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. - 7. (canceled).

8. (currently amended): A point transfer system including first and second databases, each storing point information, comprising:

point information updating means for updating the point information stored in the first database;

secret identification information updating means for updating secret identification information stored in the first database in association with the point information when the point information stored in the first database is updated by the point information updating means;

point inquiry request receiving means for receiving a point inquiry request;

point information and secret identification information returning means for returning the point information and the secret identification information stored in the first database when the point inquiry request is received by the point inquiry request receiving means;

point transfer request receiving means for receiving a point transfer request including secret identification information;

comparison means for comparing the secret identification information included in the point transfer request received by the point transfer request receiving means with the secret identification information stored in the first database;

first point transferring means for updating the point information stored in the first database to decrease a point balance and returning point transfer allowance data when the secret identification information included in the point transfer request received by the point transfer request receiving means matches the secret identification information stored in the first database; and

second point transferring means for updating the point information stored in the second database to increase a point balance when the point transfer allowance data is returned by the first point transferring means.

9. (original): A point transfer system according to claim 8, wherein the secret identification information updating means updates the secret identification information based on a random number.

10. (currently amended): A point management device, comprising:
point information updating means for updating point information stored in a database;
secret identification information updating means for updating secret identification information stored in the database in association with the point information when the point information stored in the database is updated by the point information updating means;
point inquiry request receiving means for receiving a point inquiry request;
point information and secret identification information returning means for returning the secret identification information and the point information stored in the database when the point inquiry request is received by the point inquiry request receiving means;
point transfer request receiving means for receiving a point transfer request including secret identification information;
comparison means for comparing the secret identification information included in the point transfer request received by the point transfer request receiving means with the secret identification information stored in the database; and

point transferring means for updating the point information stored in the database to decrease a point balance and returning point transfer allowance data when the secret identification information included in the point transfer request received by the point transfer request receiving means matches the secret identification information stored in the database.

11. (currently amended): A point management method, comprising:
a point information updating step for updating point information stored in a database;
a secret identification information updating step for updating secret identification information stored in the database in association with the point information when the point information stored in the database is updated at the point information updating step;
a point inquiry request receiving step for receiving a point inquiry request;

a point information and secret identification information returning step for returning the secret identification information and the point information stored in the database when the point inquiry request is received at the point inquiry request receiving step;

a point transfer request receiving step for receiving a point transfer request including secret identification information;

comparison step for comparing the secret identification information included in the point transfer request received at the point transfer request receiving step with the secret identification information stored in the database; and

a point transferring step for updating the point information stored in the database to decrease a point balance and returning point transfer allowance data when the secret identification information included in the point transfer request received at the point transfer request receiving step matches the secret identification information stored in the database.

12. (currently amended): A network game system, comprising:

a first game server for providing a game service directly to a user;

a first database connected to the first game server for storing point information related to a game and secret identification information ;

a second game server for providing a game service directly to a user; and

a second database connected to the second game server for storing point information related to a game; wherein

the first game server includes

point information updating means for updating the point information stored in the first database,

secret identification information updating means for updating the secret identification information stored in the first database in association with the point information when the point information stored in the first database is updated by the point information updating means,

point inquiry request receiving means for receiving a point inquiry request directly from the second game server,

point information and secret identification information returning means for returning the secret identification information and the point information stored in the first database when the point inquiry request is received by the point inquiry request receiving means,

point transfer request receiving means for receiving a point transfer request including secret identification information directly from the second game server,

comparison means for comparing the secret identification information included in the point transfer request received by the point transfer request receiving means with the secret identification information stored in the first database, and

first point transferring means for updating the point information stored in the first database to decrease a point balance and returning point transfer allowance data to the second game server when the secret identification information included in the point transfer request received by the point transfer request receiving means matches the secret identification information stored in the first database, and

the second game server includes

second point transferring means for updating the point information stored in the second database to increase a point balance when the point transfer allowance data is returned from the first game server by the first point transferring means.